

(STATEMENT released to the Press on April 13, 1945)

I was shocked this morning when I heard the news of President Roosevelt's death. His untimely death is not only a great loss to the American nation but to the Filipinos as well. He was a sincere friend of the Filipino people and a true champion of their rights and ambitions for self-government.

When the Japanese made their unwarranted attack on the Philippines on December 8, 1941, the Filipinos, loyal to the United States of America, rose and fought side by side with American troops in defense of the American Flag which they had learned to admire, love and respect. President Roosevelt, on repeated occasions, gave us the assurance that the Philippines would be liberated and our independence granted and protected.

The first phase of his promise has been fulfilled, and before the rest could have been accomplished the Almighty took him away from us. President Roosevelt died before he could see the results of his efforts for a world in which the people would live in peace and harmony. Like President Quezon, he died before he was able to see the realization of his dream.

His brilliant ^State^Amanship enabled him to understand and grasp important military problems, and thus gave his entire support to the successful prosecution of the war both in Europe and in the Pacific.

May God keep him close to Him always.

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